



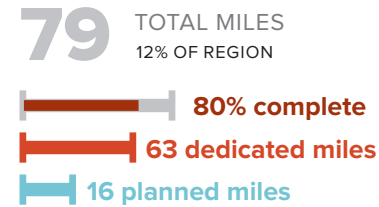
# BRIEFING BOOK

JUNE 2018

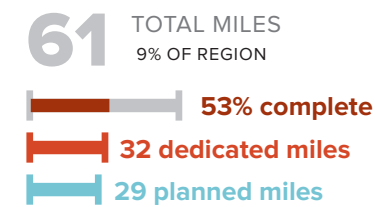


# 360° OF INSPIRATION

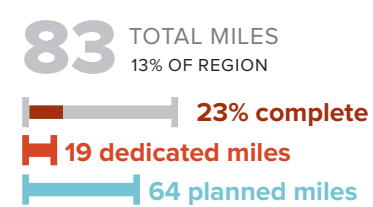
## MARIN



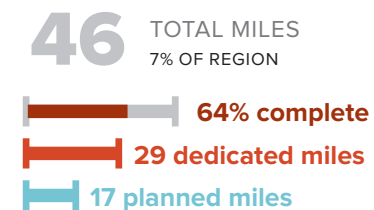
## SONOMA



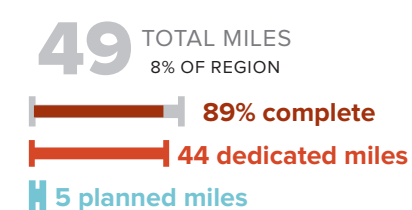
## NAPA



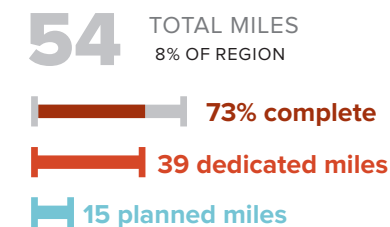
## SOLANO



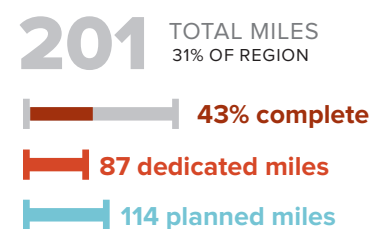
## CONTRA COSTA



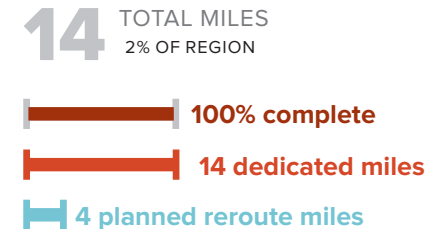
## ALAMEDA



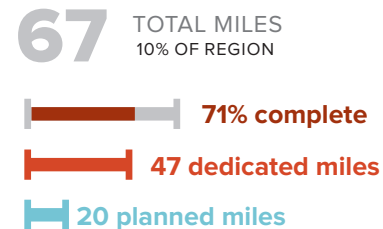
## SANTA CLARA



## SAN FRANCISCO



## SAN MATEO



### OVERNIGHT TREKKING

Over 50 campgrounds, huts, yurts, and hostels within 5 miles of the trail support overnight trekking, with many more on the way!

REGIONAL  
ELEVATION  
GAIN/LOSS:

**LOSS**  
-50,400 feet  
**11.3 miles**

**GAIN**  
+59,750 feet  
**10.2 miles**

It's been 30 years since stakeholders from around the Bay Area first gathered, got inspired and decided to create a Bay Area Ridge Trail — and a Ridge Trail Council.

Thanks to the extraordinary leadership of public, private, and non-profit partners and to the tireless work of advocates and volunteers — 375 miles of the ultimate 550-mile route are now in place for both close-to-home outings and epic adventures.

This briefing book tells the story of Ridge Trail status, both from a regional and county perspective. Each area has its own unique geography, ecology, land use pattern and planning framework which has shaped the Ridge Trail's progress to-date, and which will continue to influence trail completion.

We've traveled quite a distance together and have much to be proud of and celebrate, but we're also eager to keep up the pace to reach our shared goal of protecting and connecting the Bay Area's unsurpassed natural beauty with a continuous ridgeline trail. Thank you to everyone who has rolled up their sleeves and is part of this inspiring journey!





# BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL REGIONAL STATS



**550\***  
TOTAL MILES



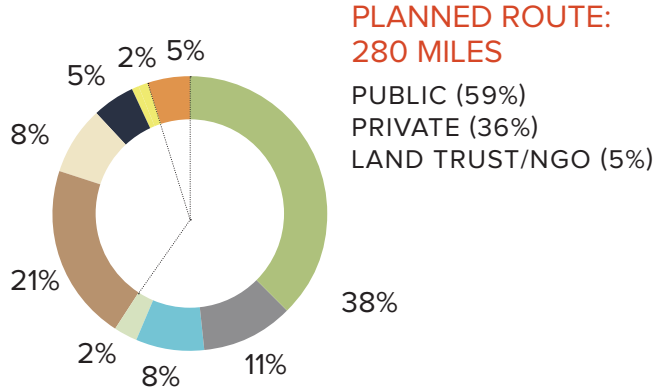
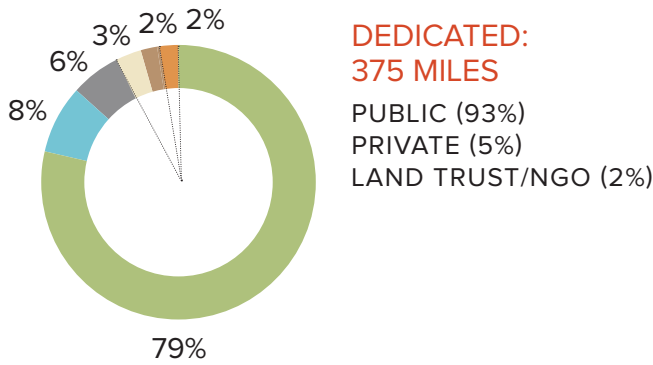
**69% complete**  
**375 dedicated miles**  
**280\* planned miles**

## DEDICATED MULTI-USE

375 miles open to  
331 miles  
318 miles  
278 miles (74%) full multi-use

*\*Includes alternate route options and a South Bay "southern extension" loop to Gilroy of ~ 85 planned miles. We typically identify ~ 175 more "planned route" miles as part of the main 550-mile Ridge Trail loop, but the full regional network will be longer, potentially including up to 100 additional miles.*

## LAND USE/ OWNERSHIP



- PUBLIC**
- Parks/open space preserve
  - Watershed/utility
  - Road right-of-way
  - State Forest, misc.
- PRIVATE**
- Rural, non-agricultural
  - Ranchland/farmland
  - Other (Institutional, urban)
  - Roads
- LAND TRUST / NGO**
- Land Trust/NGO





① **FIRST DEDICATION:**  
1989, Bolinas Ridge

② **MOST RECENT DEDICATION:**  
2010, Dias Ridge, 3.0 miles

③ **WHAT'S NEXT?**  
Dias Ridge, Phase II, 0.3 miles

▲ **HIGHEST PEAK:**  
Mt Tamalpais 2,572'

# MARIN

79  
TOTAL MILES  
12% OF REGION



## LAND USE/OWNERSHIP PLANNED:



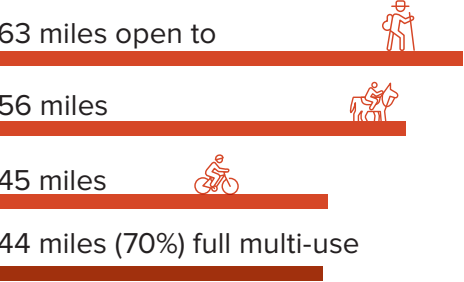
PUBLIC

- Parks/open space preserve 26%

PRIVATE

- Ranchland/farmland 74%

## DEDICATED MULTI-USE



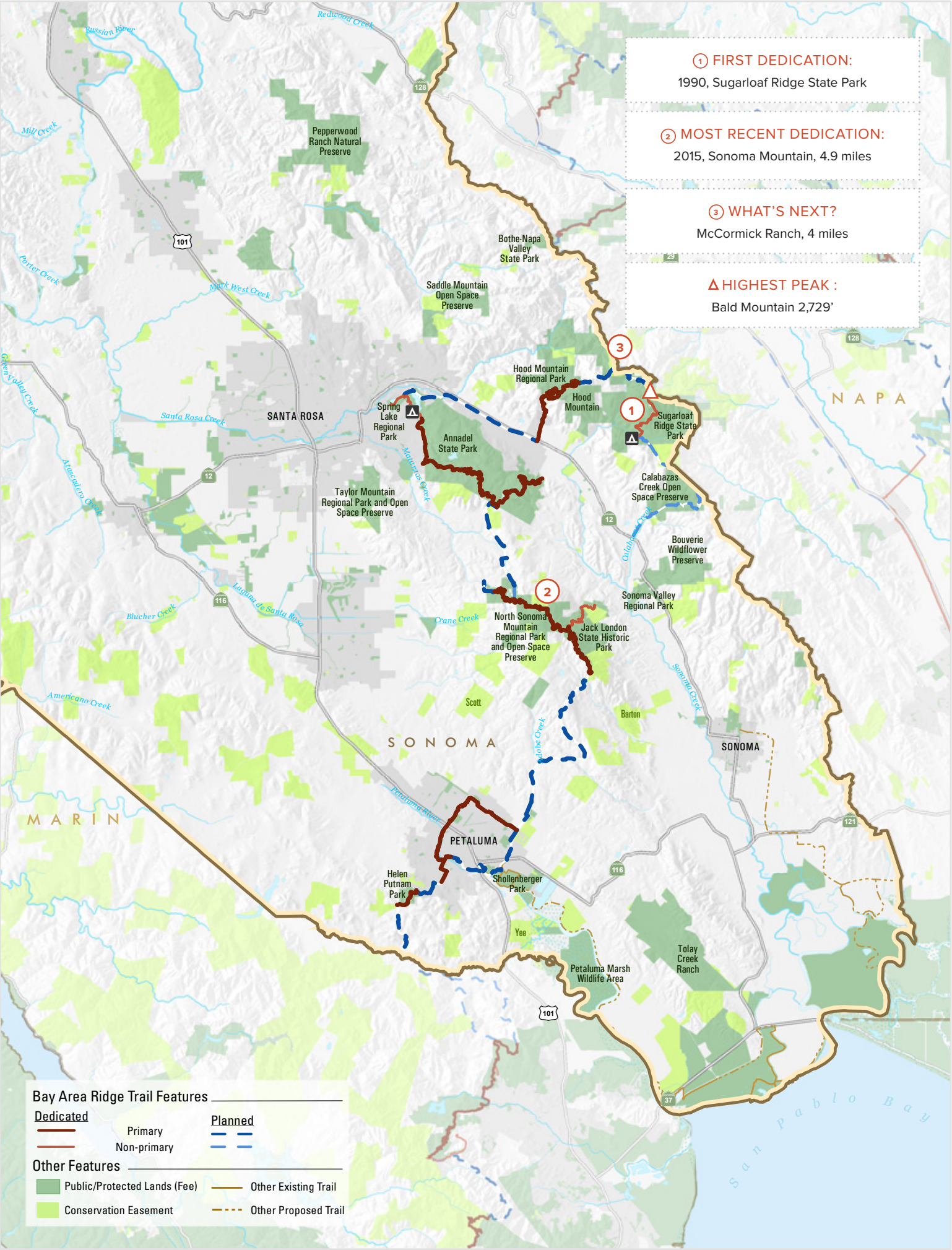
## HIGHLIGHTS

- Marin is a popular destination for trail enthusiasts and is 80% complete, thanks to strong partners including Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), Marin County Open Space District, Marin Municipal Water District, and California State Parks.
- Nearly three-quarters of the planned route is on two private ranches, and owners of both properties have allowed special event trail outings.
- The Open Space District is a partner in creating trail easements and other mechanisms to facilitate trail completion on the remaining private property.
- Mountain bikes are excluded on ~15 miles, in Mount Tamalpais State Park and Marin County's Indian Tree to Mount Burdell open space preserves.
- Marin has the highest number of overnight facilities to support multi-day trekking, with options in GGNRA and Mount Tamalpais and Samuel P. Taylor state parks.

## ANNUAL EVENT

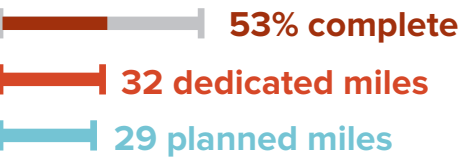
Ridge to Bridge, an annual signature supported multi-distance and multi-use hike, bike and equestrian ride traverses Marin in April.





# SONOMA

61  
TOTAL MILES  
9% OF REGION

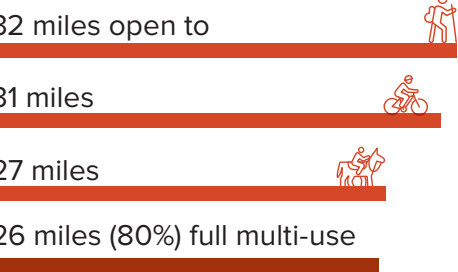


### LAND USE/OWNERSHIP PLANNED:



- PUBLIC
- Parks/open space preserve **50%**
  - Road right-of-way **2%**
- PRIVATE
- Rural, non-agricultural **48%**

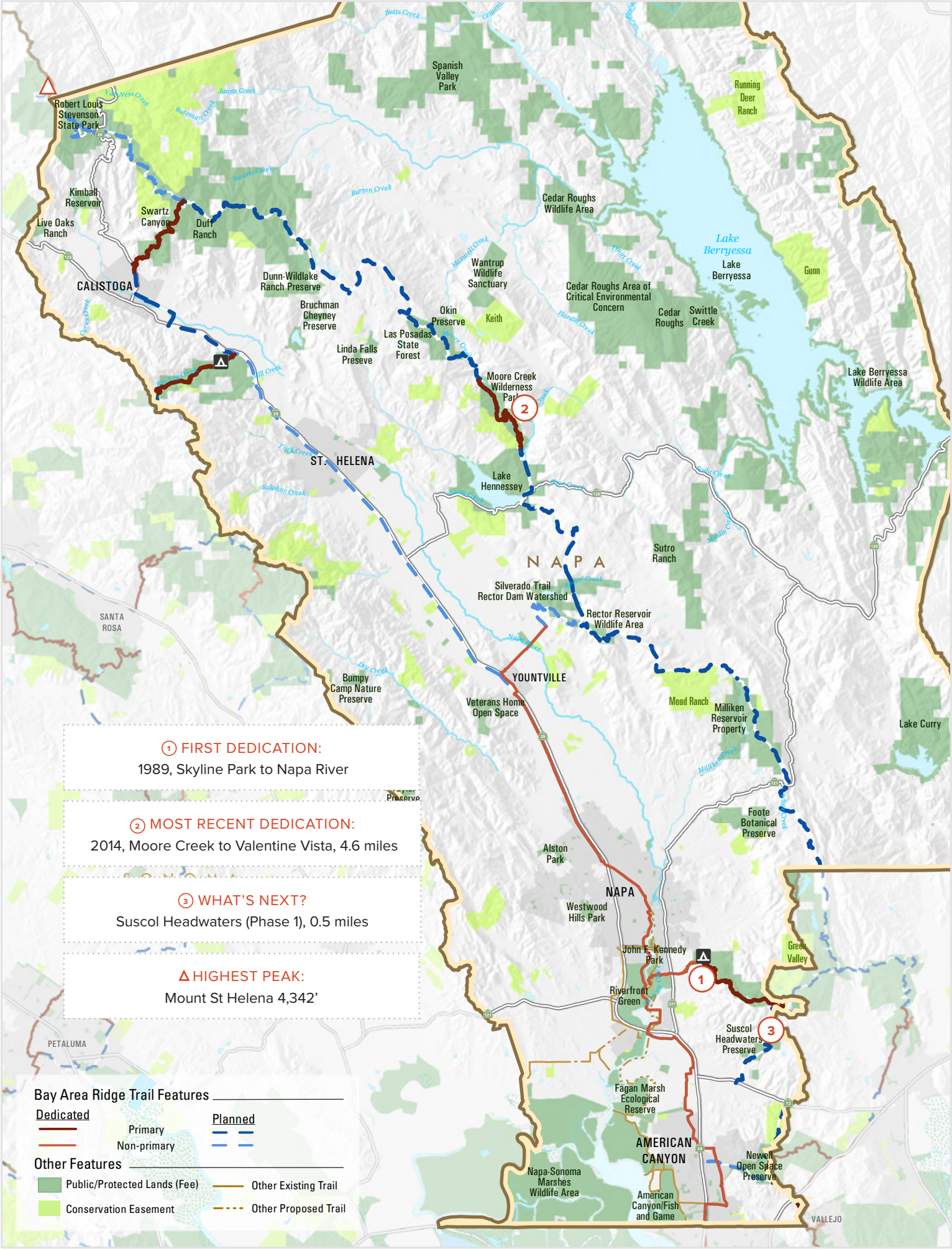
### DEDICATED MULTI-USE



### HIGHLIGHTS

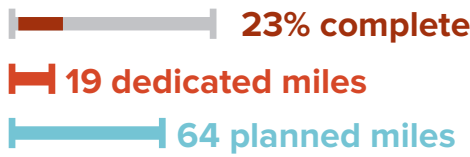
- Just over half the ultimate route is dedicated.
- After decades of advocacy and partnership among many private, public and non-profit partners, two new trails and preserves opened on Sonoma Mountain in 2015. The North Sonoma Mountain Trail and East Slope trails are on either side of Jack London State Historic Park, creating a 9-mile continuous stretch and an anchor for future trail extensions.
- Sonoma voters created the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District in 1990 and approved two separate funding measures that now extend a quarter-cent sales tax through 2031.
- Sonoma Land Trust is working to acquire property that could extend the trail north of Sugarloaf Ridge and Hood Mountain (~ 4 miles).
- The planned route is evenly split between public and private ownership, with the public portion in State Parks, County Regional Parks and the City of Petaluma.
- Opportunities to create multi-benefit projects in Bennett and Sonoma Valleys could expand regional trail networks and conserve wildlife habitat.
- Overnight facilities exist in Hood Mountain Regional Park and Trione-Annadel and Sugarloaf Ridge State Parks with more planned for Sugarloaf.





# NAPA

83  
TOTAL MILES  
13% OF REGION



## LAND USE/OWNERSHIP PLANNED:

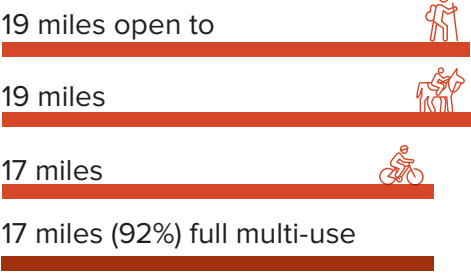


- PUBLIC**
- Road right-of-way **14%**
  - State Forest, misc. **11%**
  - Parks/open space preserve **9%**
  - Watershed/utility **5%**
- PRIVATE**
- Ranchland/farmland **31%**
  - Rural, non-agricultural **13%**
  - Institutional, railroad **6%**
- LAND TRUST / NGO**
- Land Trust/NGO **11%**

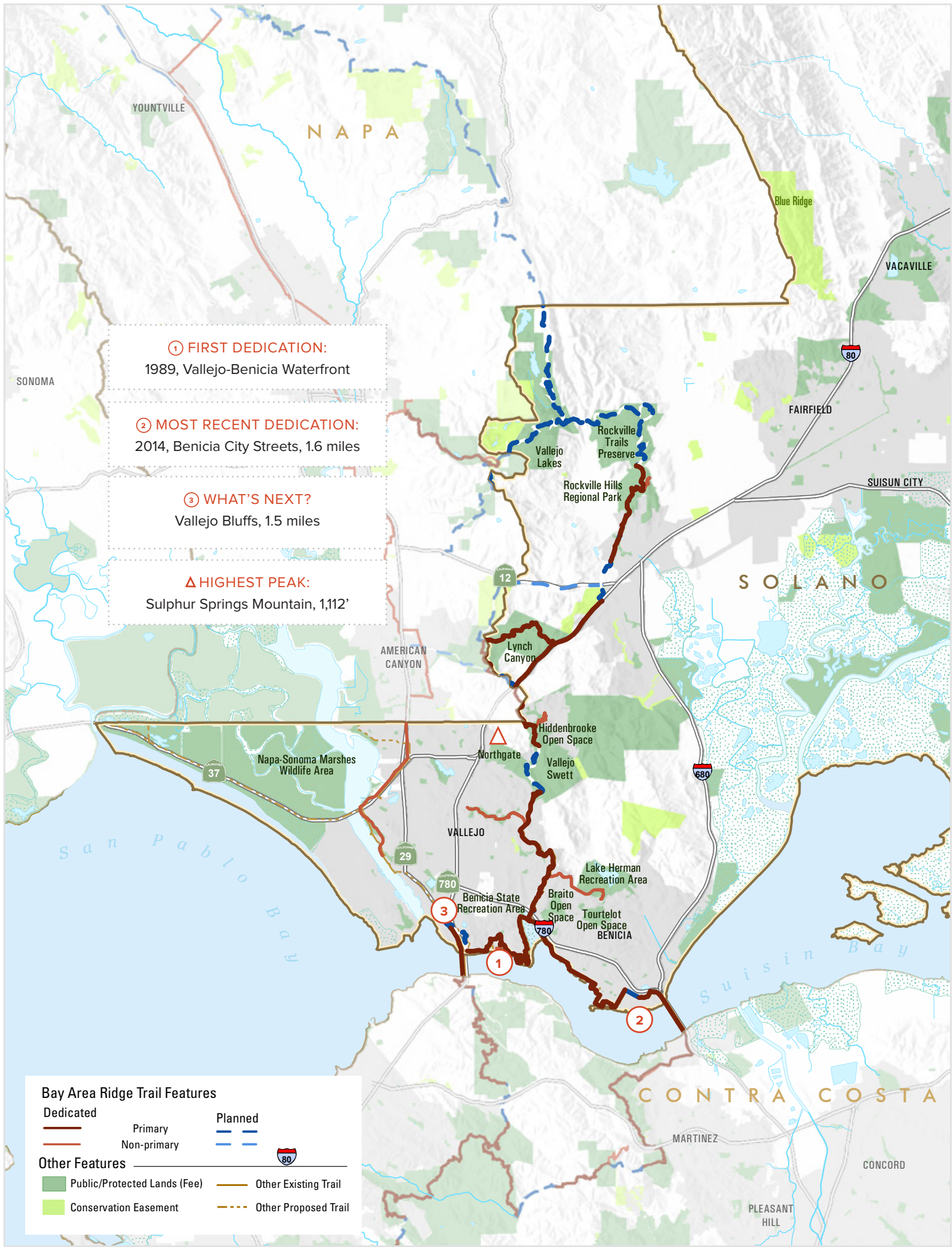
## HIGHLIGHTS

- Napa hosts five key sections, including Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and Oat Hill Mine, Moore Creek, Skyline, Napa-Solano and River to Ridge Trail.
- The Ridge Trail route has changed significantly over time, with two major northward extensions in 1990 and 2012, to include Calistoga, Mount St. Helena, and iconic existing and future open space/conservation corridors.
- Napa voters created the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (Napa OSD) in 2006, establishing a strong foundation for parks, conservation and recreation. A ballot measure to create dedicated funding for this District (a quarter cent sales tax) was narrowly defeated in 2016.
- The Napa-Solano Ridge Trail opened in 2006 with a model trail easement on private property. It was built and managed for many years by the Ridge Trail Council and recently transferred to the Napa OSD.
- Almost two-thirds of the planned route is on private or land trust property. More private-public partnerships will be essential to connecting these planned stretches.
- Overnight facilities exist in Bothe-Napa State Park and Skyline Wilderness Park.

## DEDICATED MULTI-USE

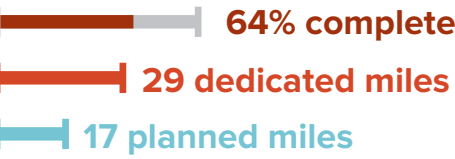






# SOLANO

46  
TOTAL MILES  
7% OF REGION

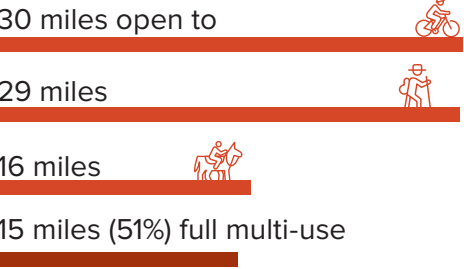


## LAND USE/OWNERSHIP PLANNED:



- PUBLIC
- Watershed/utility 45%
  - Road right-of-way 16%
- PRIVATE
- Urban 5%
  - Rural, non-agricultural 3%
- LAND TRUST / NGO
- Land Trust/NGO 31%

## DEDICATED MULTI-USE



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Solano’s completion rate of almost two-thirds nearly matches the regional average, thanks to partnership with the Cities, State Parks, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, Solano Land Trust, and Solano Transportation Authority, as well as very dedicated and committed local trail advocates.
- Solano lacks a county park and open space agency or district. However, a campaign is underway to bring a measure to voters to create one in the near future.
- The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is supporting efforts to complete the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail (CSSLT) and trail design in Solano Land Trust’s Lynch Canyon and Rockville Trails.
- Much of the planned route is on land trust property or public watershed land and road/ right-of-way.
- Planning and design are underway to complete the Vallejo Bluffs Trail, a complex 2-mile gap in the Ridge Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, and Great California Delta Trail, all part of the CSSLT. This critical gap requires multiple agencies’ participation and an expensive highway crossing.
- Overnight facilities were recently completed at McIntyre Ranch, with more planned for Benicia State Recreation Area.





# CONTRA COSTA

49  
TOTAL MILES  
8% OF REGION



89% complete  
44 dedicated miles  
5 planned miles

## LAND USE/OWNERSHIP PLANNED:



**PUBLIC**

- Parks/open space preserve **32%**
- Road right-of-way **46%**

**PRIVATE**

- Ranchland/farmland **20%**

**LAND TRUST / NGO**

- Land Trust/NGO **2%**

## DEDICATED MULTI-USE

44 miles open to

41 miles

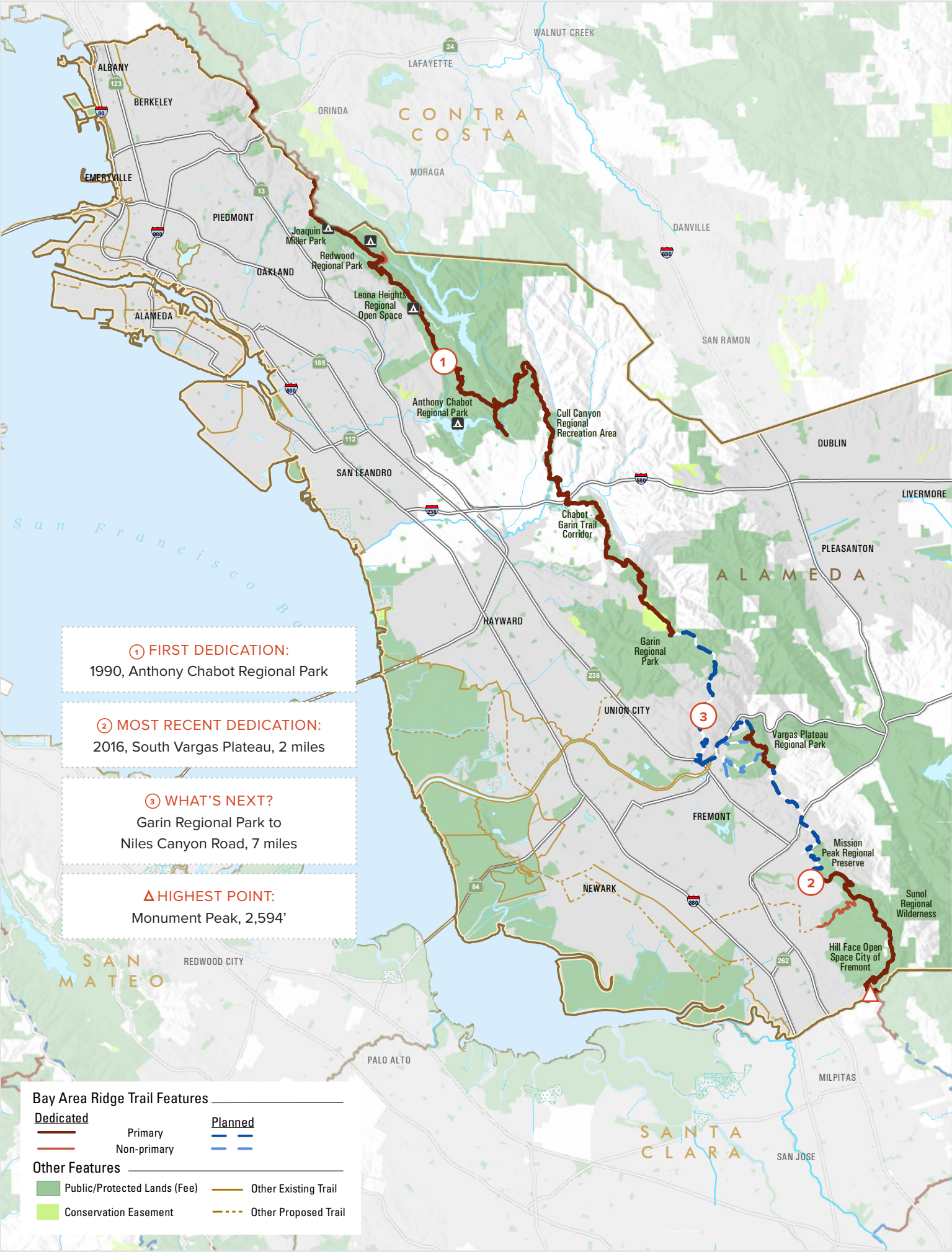
30 miles

28 miles (63%) full multi-use

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Contra Costa enjoys one of the highest completion rates (89%) in the region, thanks to strong partnerships with East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and John Muir Land Trust (JMLT).
- The Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail (CSSLT) (Solano and Contra Costa Counties) is a unique convergence of the Ridge Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, Great California Delta Trail, and Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail with two bridge crossings and a route through five historic downtowns.
- JMLT's campaign to purchase Almond Ranch could close a key 1.1-mile gap in the loop between Mt. Wanda and Sky Ranch.
- EBMUD recently adopted a Watershed Master Plan Update that will allow two key bicycle gaps (7.5 miles) to be closed.
- Opposition to multi-use on single-track trails will make it challenging to close the remaining six miles of multi-use gaps.
- The gaps between Crockett Hills and Fernandez Ranch and from Sobrante Ridge to Kennedy Grove will require complex crossings of private properties and roads/highways.
- Overnight facilities exist in Wildcat and Tilden regional parks, with plans to build additional facilities in Crockett Hills and Carquinez Strait regional parks.





# ALAMEDA

54  
TOTAL MILES  
8% OF REGION



73% complete  
39 dedicated miles  
15 planned miles

## LAND USE/OWNERSHIP PLANNED:



**PUBLIC**

- Parks/open space preserve **61%**
- Watershed/utility **12%**
- Road right-of-way **3%**

**PRIVATE**

- Ranchland/farmland **22%**
- Institutional, railroad **2%**

## DEDICATED MULTI-USE

40 miles open to  
40 miles  
29 miles  
29 miles (74%) full multi-use



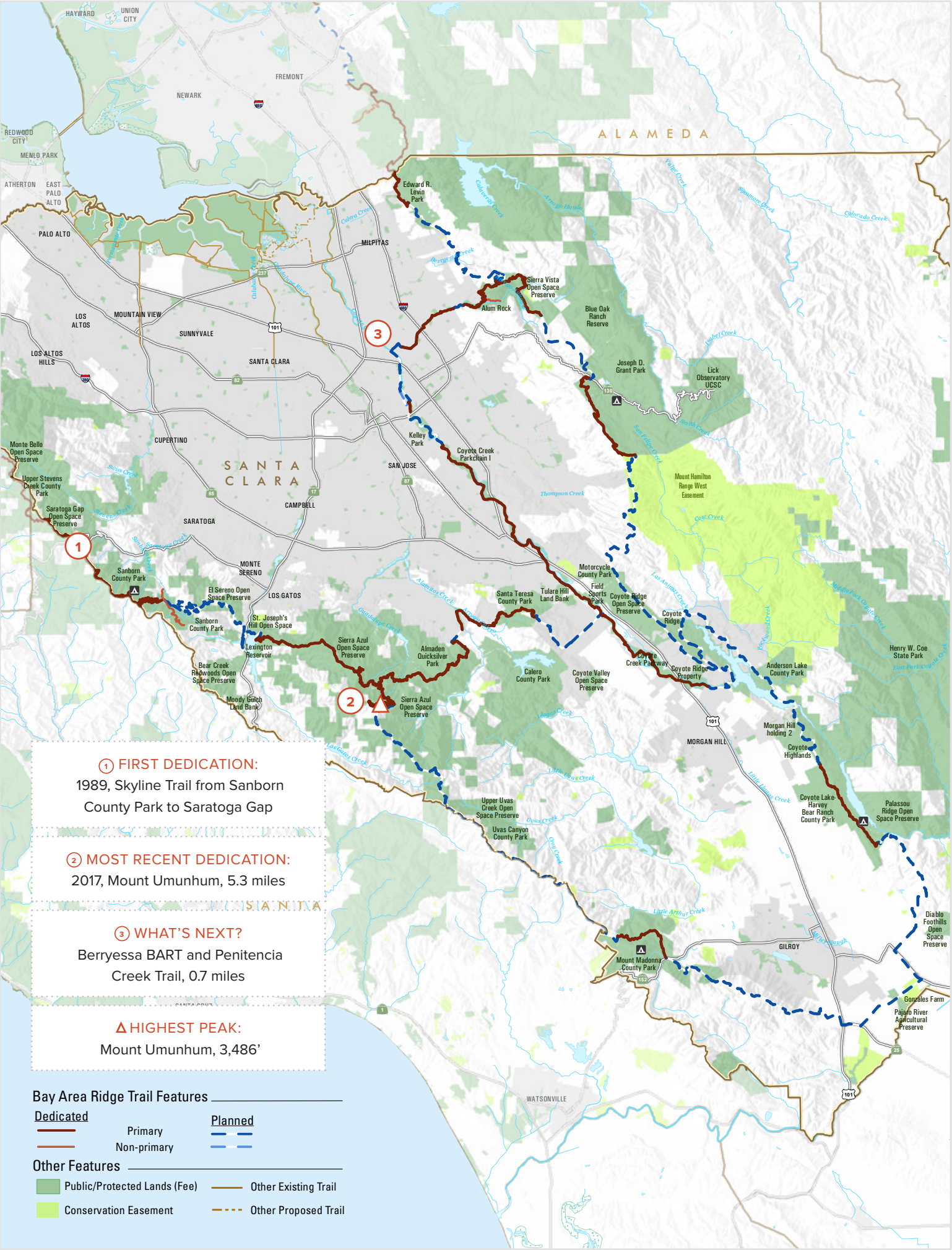
## HIGHLIGHTS

- Alameda is almost three-quarters complete, thanks in large measure to leadership by East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the largest urban regional park district in the U.S. and a champion of regional trails. EBRPD has completed over 34 miles in Alameda alone and almost 60 miles total in the East Bay.
- After 35 years of planning, advocacy, and private-public partnerships, EBRPD opened 3.5 miles of fully multi-use trail through Stonebrae and Garin regional parks in Hayward, connecting three properties and creating an almost 45-mile continuous stretch.
- A current 45-mile continuous stretch will extend to over 50 miles when the gap from Garin Regional Park to Niles Canyon Road is completed in the next couple of years.
- Opposition to multi-use on single-track trails is a challenge for closing about 10 miles of mountain bike use gaps.
- Overnight camping facilities exist along the Ridge Trail in Sibley, Anthony Chabot and Mission Peak regional parks, with more facilities planned further south in North Garin, Garin/Gelderman and Vargas Plateau regional parks.

## ANNUAL EVENT

The Ridge Trail and partners have hosted a 5-6 day supported Labor Day East Bay Hills hike and equestrian ride – along a 45-mile continuous stretch of Ridge Trail, for over a decade. Volunteers shuttle gear and cook hot meals for happy campers.





# SANTA CLARA

201  
TOTAL MILES  
31% OF REGION



43% complete

87 dedicated miles

114 planned miles

## LAND USE/OWNERSHIP PLANNED:



### PUBLIC

- Parks/open space preserve 52%
- Road right-of-way 11%
- Watershed/utility 1%

### PRIVATE

- Ranchland/farmland 23%
- Roads 12%
- Urban 1%

## DEDICATED MULTI-USE

87 miles open to



86 miles



83 miles



FULL MULTI-USE: 82 miles (95%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Santa Clara hosts nearly one-third of the total route, including 85 miles dedicated and 114 miles planned, with an overall completion rate of 43%.
- Santa Clara County Parks hosts almost 60 miles (16%) of the total dedicated miles of the region.
- The route splits into a “Central County” stretch which is two-thirds complete, and a “South County” extension which is only about one-quarter complete.
- Gaps on the Central County stretch will be expensive to close, due to highway crossings (Highways 17 and 101) and other infrastructure, topographic/geologic and floodplain constraints. Alternatively, private ranches pose a challenge along the South County planned route.
- In 2017, after almost a decade of planning and site clean-up, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) opened over five miles of trail on Mt Umunhum, the highest point on the trail in this part of the region.
- BART is coming to San José, and the Berryessa BART station will include a section of Ridge Trail, closing a key gap and connecting to nearby trails, transit, parks, open space preserves, and urban destinations.
- Overnight facilities exist at Ed Levin, Joseph Grant, Coyote Bear, Mount Madonna and Sanborn county parks as well as Castle Rock State Park, with more planned for Sierra Vista and Coyote Ridge open space preserves, led by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.



# SAN MATEO

**67**  
TOTAL MILES  
10% OF REGION



**71% complete**

**47 dedicated miles**

**20 planned miles**

**LAND USE/OWNERSHIP  
PLANNED:**



PUBLIC

● Parks/open space preserve **55%**

● Watershed/utility **35%**

● Road right-of-way **3%**

PRIVATE

● Rural, non-agricultural **2%**

LAND TRUST / NGO

● Land Trust/NGO **5%**

**DEDICATED MULTI-USE**

48 miles open to



47 miles



39 miles



FULL MULTI-USE: 37 miles (76%)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- San Mateo is more than two-thirds complete, thanks to historic trails and successful partnerships with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), San Francisco Public Utility District (SFPUC), San Mateo County Parks, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).
- In 2016, over 7 miles of trail on Milagra Ridge (GGNRA) and Pacifica and Daly City streets were dedicated and signed to complete an 80-mile continuous stretch from Highway 92 to northern Marin.
- Two gaps totaling 8 miles, on MROSD's La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and SFPUC's Southern Skyline Extension, are expected to open in the next five years.
- SFPUC started a docent-led access program in 2003, allowing the 8-mile Fifield-Cahill Trail through the Crystal Springs Watershed to be dedicated.
- Almost 90% of the remaining gaps are on publicly-owned land, and about 10% of the planned route crosses private property.
- There are overnight facilities in Huddart and Wunderlich county parks and Portola Redwoods State Park, with additional facilities planned for Montara Mountain State Park.

**① FIRST DEDICATION:**  
1989, Purisima Creek Redwoods

**② MOST RECENT DEDICATION:**  
2016, Milagra Ridge, Pacifica and  
Daly City, 7 miles total

**③ WHAT'S NEXT?**  
Southern Skyline Extension, 6 miles

**▲ HIGHEST PEAK:**  
Borel Hill, 2,544'

### Bay Area Ridge Trail Features

**Dedicated**  
Primary  
Non-primary  
**Planned**  
Planned

### Other Features

Public/Protected Lands (Fee)  
Conservation Easement  
Other Existing Trail  
Other Proposed Trail

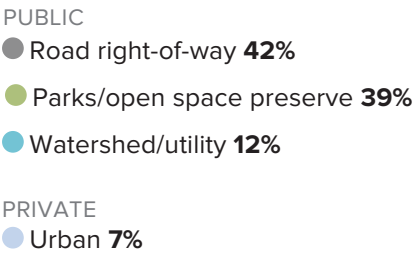


# SAN FRANCISCO

14  
TOTAL MILES  
2% OF REGION



## LAND USE/OWNERSHIP PLANNED:



## DEDICATED MULTI-USE

14 miles open to



0 miles



14 miles



FULL MULTI-USE: None of the San Francisco dedicated RT is fully multi-use

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The San Francisco route is completely dedicated (for hikers), though much of the route is on sidewalks and along city streets.
- A reroute to move the Ridge Trail off streets and across Twin Peaks, Mount Sutro, and Golden Gate Park is underway, made possible by Sutro Stewards, traffic closure on Twin Peaks, and other stakeholder efforts.
- A first phase of the reroute in Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve was dedicated in 2017. City agencies, SFPUC and private landowners are working to complete the remaining three miles of the reroute in the next five years.
- Project costs will be higher and timelines extended, due to the complexities of this urban setting and its political processes. However, SF is home to supportive agencies as well as many active and politically savvy trail advocates and volunteers.
- The Presidio hosts the Rob Hill group campsite, but no other overnight facilities are currently planned near the Ridge Trail.





# AGENCY PARTNERS

